SEPTEMBER 2024

Local Scoop

City of Whittlesea

Your City of Whittlesea *news*

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Upcoming Council Meetings

Due to Council Elections, there will be no Council Meetings during September and October 2024.

Tuesday 26 November, 6pm
Proposed Council Meeting to elect the Mayor and Deputy Mayor
Council Chamber, Council Offices
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Tuesday 17 December, 6pm
Council Chamber, Council Offices,
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Meetings can be viewed live on the City of Whittlesea YouTube channel.

For the latest information about Council Meetings, including how you can get involved, visit
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

City of Whittlesea

Connect with us

South Morang
25 Ferres Boulevard
Monday to Friday, 8.30am–5pm

Whittlesea
63 Church Street
Monday to Friday, 9.30am–5pm

9217 2170
(including after hours emergencies)
National Relay Service
133 677 (ask for 9217 2170)

Locked Bag 1,
Bundoora MDC VIC 3083

info@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

whittlesea.vic.gov.au

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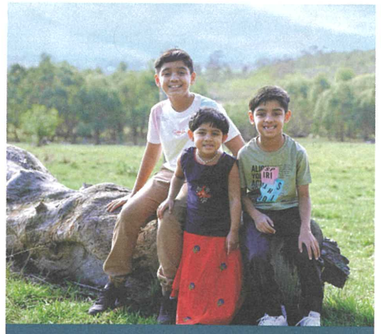

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Panel of Administrators

Lydia Wilson
Chair of Administrators

Peita Duncan
Administrator

Christian Zahra AM
Administrator

Printed on Australian-made PEFC™ certified paper using vegetable inks.

Free telephone interpreter service
131 450

Arabic خدمة الترجمة الشفهية الهاتفية المجانية
Chinese Simplified 免费电话传译服务
Chinese Traditional 免費電話傳譯服務
Greek Δωρεάν τηλεφωνική υπηρεσία διερμηνέων
Italian Servizio di interpretariato telefonico gratuito
Macedonian Бесплатна телефонска услуга за преведување
Persian/Farsi خدمات مترجم شفاهی تلفنی رایگان
Punjabi ਮੁਫ਼ਤ ਟੈਲੀਫ਼ੋਨ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਆ ਸੇਵਾ
Turkish Ücretsiz telefonla tercümanlık servisi
Vietnamese Dịch vụ thông dịch qua điện thoại miễn phí

recognise the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Taungurung People he Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea.

ABOVE Boone (centre), with his dad Phuoc and mum Tulisa are looking forward to the new community centre.

New centre for growing suburb

Wollert will soon be home to a $16.2 million multi-purpose community centre – a welcome addition aimed at improving access to services for the suburb's rapidly growing community.

Tulisa Tran has seen first-hand the many changes Wollert has undergone since she and her family moved to the burgeoning suburb in 2021.

And now there is another change on the horizon that will help make life that little bit easier for the growing number of families calling Wollert home.

Earlier this year, the City of Whittlesea approved plans to build a $16.2 million multi-purpose community centre on the corner of Jardin Road and Meadow Lane.

The centre will provide early childhood education programs via a three-room kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health Services from two consulting suites.

Residents will also benefit from a mini-branch library and a bookable community hall, kitchen and activity room, as well as accessible amenities, outdoor area and off-street parking.

"This community centre will make a real difference to the lives of residents in Wollert by providing them with the services they need close to home."

– Chair Administrator Lydia Wilson

Tulisa, who lives in Wollert with her husband Phuoc Phan and four-year-old son Boone, said the community centre would be a welcome addition.

The multi-purpose community centre will provide important services for residents of all ages:

- early childhood education programs
- Maternal and Child Health Services
- mini-branch library
- community hall, kitchen and activity room availabe for hire
- accessible amenities
- outdoor area and off-street parking.

"The community centre will be very good for families living in this area." she said.

City of Whittlesea Chair Administrator Lydia Wilson said the centre, which is expected to open in early 2027, would reduce the need for residents to travel to access important services.

The centre is funded by Council and the Victorian Government through $6.75 million from its Building Blocks Partnership and $1.5 million from its Growing Suburbs Fund programs.

For more information, scan the QR code or visit
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/WWCC

Voting in the upcoming Council election

Local government elections will be held this October, where a new group of Councillors will be elected to represent the City of Whittlesea.

Local Government elections are an opportunity for you to help shape the City of Whittlesea by voting for a Council representative for your local ward or nominating to become a Councillor yourself.

The election will be conducted entirely by post, with voting ballot packs mailed out in early October by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC). Voting is compulsory for all enrolled voters.

The VEC conducts elections on behalf of all Victorian councils.

Nominating as a candidate

If you are passionate about making a difference in your local community, you can nominate as a candidate for the upcoming election.

Nominations open on Monday 9 September, and close at noon on Tuesday 17 September.

Find out more at vec.vic.gov.au

Key dates

Monday 9 September
Candidate nominations open

12 noon, Tuesday 17 September
Candidate nominations close

Monday 7 October to Thursday 10 October
Mail out of ballot packs to every enrolled voter

Friday 25 October
Voting closes at 6pm. Make sure your vote is in the post by this time.

Tuesday 12 November
The VEC is expected to declare the election results.

For more information visit vec.vic.gov.au

2024 local council elections

My council, my vote

Victorian Electoral Commission

Out and about with our Administrators

Clockwise from top left: A highlight in the term of the Administrators was the sod turn on the Aboriginal Gathering Place, Administrator Christian Zhara AM, Whittlesea Aboriginal Gathering Place Advisory Group Co-Chair Karen Bryant, Chair Administrator Lydia Wilson and Administrator Peita Duncan; Chair Administrator Wilson speaks at the Ageing Well Expo in June and at the opening of the Laurimar Recreation Reserve Cricket Nets in Doreen in June.

Connected and active communites

The Ageing Well Expo offered valuable safety and health advice to residents, while upcoming projects in Doreen and Whittlesea are set to improve local recreation facilities.

Our successful Ageing Well Expo was a great chance to connect with the community and share tips on staying safe and healthy as you age.

The event featured sessions on retirement planning, scam avoidance, advanced care planning and elder abuse prevention. Thanks to everyone who joined us and our fantastic partners.

We were thrilled to partner with the State Government to upgrade the nets at Laurimar Recreation Reserve in Doreen. These nets will benefit Laurimar Cricket Club players and the local community.

Additionally, we've started another $1 million project together to add new pedestrian paths, a bridge, and cycle paths at Whittlesea Township Park which will make a huge difference to residents in the township.

As our Administration term draws to a close ahead of the October Council elections, we want to say what a privilege it has been to serve this community.

Meeting so many of you over the past four years and getting to know the wonders of this incredible municipality has been a joy, and we're proud of the strong position we're in to welcome a new Council.

We wish the City of Whittlesea a bright future and continued success.

"What most skaters want is a community-level park that suits beginners and advanced skaters, which this one does,"

– James, skate park regular

ABOVE James Cole is a regular at the Whittlesea Public Gardens skate park. **INSET** The basketball court and rock climbing wall are part of the park's multi-million dollar makeover.

Skate and play at the Whittlesea Public Gardens

The epic transformation of the Whittlesea Public Gardens in Lalor has continued with the completion of the latest stage in the park's multi-million dollar makeover – a new skate park and urban zone.

A 100-metre-long street-style skate park catering to beginner, intermediate and advanced users is the centrepiece of the project. The half-court netball and basketball courts, kick-about soccer space and rock-climbing wall have all proved popular with visitors too.

The project also saw the installation of a range of facilities for the comfort and convenience of visitors of all ages and abilities, including two large shelters with barbecues, seating, drinking fountains, paths, lights and landscaping.

The works build on the redevelopment's first stage, which was completed in 2022, and featured a new playground with play towers, swings, slides, flying fox, riding circuit and more.

James Coles, 28, who has been skating for about 18 years, has been a regular visitor to the skate park since it opened. He said feedback from fellow skaters had been resoundingly positive.

"Most skaters aren't looking to skate a huge set of stairs or things like that – maybe only 1 per cent of skaters can do those sorts of tricks," he said. "They've nailed the design."

City of Whittlesea Chair Administrator Lydia Wilson said the Barry Road facility played a vital role in the lives of residents in Lalor, Thomastown and surrounding suburbs.

"The transformation of the gardens in recent years is truly remarkable. With a proud history as the heart of our community, I am delighted that we have ushered in the next exciting chapter, ensuring that future generations will have a fun and welcoming space to enjoy with family and friends."

Council has contributed more than $3.35 million towards the project so far, with the Victorian Government contributing $2.65 million through its Growing Suburbs Fund.

For more information, scan the QR code or visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

ABOVE Raphael, Evelyn and Jake are looking forward to exploring the playground.

Work continues on major new park

A new playground that draws on the stunning natural beauty of its surroundings to promote connections to nature is taking shape in South Morang.

The Granite Hills Major Community Park, located in Quarry Hills, will be one of four major community parks in the municipality when it opens next year.

The park will have a strong focus on nature play and maximising the area's natural environment through connections to walking trails.

The playground will have a 40-metre flying fox, giant slides, lawn maze and numerous other attractions designed to be enjoyed by families. The playground, which will be accessible from the southern end of Cravens Road, will also include two waterbodies and a boardwalk.

Public toilets, picnic and barbecue areas, shelters and a Changing Places facility for visitors with higher needs will provide comfort and convenience.

Doreen resident Biby Cherian said she will be sure to bring her young children – Raphael, 12, Jake, 7, Evelyn, 3, and Benjamin, 18 months – to the park when it is complete.

"We will definitely come over and spend time here with the family," she said. "My children are certainly going to enjoy it. The Council is putting in a lot of effort into this park and the people who live in this area are blessed and lucky to have this park."

Administrator Peita Duncan said the park will be a tremendous asset serving the community for generations.

"This park will draw people in from across the region and allow them to appreciate the stunning natural beauty of the parkland."

– Administrator Peita Duncan

"We want residents to live healthy, active lives and providing facilities like this that people of all ages and abilities can enjoy is a key part of that," Peita said.

The park is one of three significant projects at the Parkland, with construction underway on both the Aboriginal Gathering Place and Quarry Hills Connecting Trails.

Traditional name to honour heritage

The area known as Quarry Hills will soon be known as bunjil nganga Parkland when the name is officially ratified by Geographic Names Victoria.

Meaning 'eagle view', the traditional Aboriginal name was nominated by Traditional Owners and honours both the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung custodianship of the site and its significant cultural heritage which includes artefacts, ceremonial sites, trees and quarries. It's also the site for our Aboriginal Gathering Place which is currently under construction.

The new name underwent a period of community consultation and is proposed to be used in conjunction with the informal name of Quarry Hills for a period of up to five years to support the transition.

bunjil nganga Parkland Quarry Hills*

For more details on the name, including the origins, meaning and pronunciation visit **engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/qhrpnaming**

* Name subject to official ratification by Geographic Names Victoria.

The City of Whittlesea is contributing $6.3 million towards the Granite Hills Major Community Park, while the Victorian Government has provided a $2.5 million grant from its Growing Suburbs Fund program.

Construction of the park is expected to be finished in 2025.

Purr-fect upgrades

Cats looking for their forever home will be waiting in greater comfort after an upgrade to the enclosures at the wat djerring Animal Facility.

The upgrade replaced the facility's old wooden laminate cat enclosures with 150 new PVC foamed panel enclosures, which are easier to clean and more comfortable for their occupants.

City of Whittlesea CEO Craig Lloyd said the transition to more modern cat enclosures was an important investment.

Located at 20 Companion Place, Epping, the wat djerring Animal Facility is managed by the City of Whittlesea in partnership with the Darebin and Merri-bek councils.

Every animal that enters the facility is scanned for a microchip and each council's animal registration database is checked to help identify the animal and reunite it with its owner.

"At wat djerring, we prioritise reuniting lost animals with their owners, and finding new homes for stray animals as quickly as possible. These upgrades will ensure that cats are happy, safe and healthy while in our care.

–City of Whittlesea CEO, Craig Lloyd

The facility also offers animal adoptions and welcomes inquiries on 8401 6200 or at whittlesea.vic.gov.au/animalfacility

wat djerring
ANIMAL FACILITY

Opening hours:

- **Monday: 10am–4pm**
- **Tuesday: 12pm–6.30pm**
- **Wednesday: 10am–4pm**
- **Thursday: 12pm–6.30pm**
- **Friday: 10am–4pm**
- **Saturday: 10am-2pm**

Closed Sundays and public holidays.

Pooch playgrounds a-plenty

Dog owners and their pooches will be able to enjoy a brand-new dog park in Wollert after the City of Whittlesea secured $500,000 in funding.

The Allumba Off-Leash Dog Park will provide a safe and accessible space for residents to exercise their dogs when it opens mid-next year.

Community consultation earlier this year canvassed the needs and wants of dog owners in the growing suburb of Wollert.

The resultant plans will see a fully fenced dog park built featuring a quiet zone, gravel and lawn surfaces, garden beds and landscaping, bench seating, lighting, drinking fountain, shelter and bins.

Fresh from the opening of the Whittlesea Public Gardens' skate park and urban zone, Council will also be upgrading the Barry Road facility's off-leash dog park in 2024-25. Following consultation with dog owners, the existing park will be upgraded with new fencing, a quiet dog zone, improved surfaces, upgraded furniture and a new shelter.

ABOVE Ezekiel with his dog Atlas.

The Allumba and Whittlesea Public Gardens dog park projects are made possible through $500,000 and $340,000 grants respectively from the Victorian Government's New and Upgraded Dog Parks Program.

For more information on dog parks visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/dogparks

New library hub for Wollert

A wealth of information is within easy reach of residents after the establishment of a library hub in the Kirrip Community Centre in Wollert.

The lounge area is an even better space for the community with the addition of shelves housing up to 2000 books, a self-serve electronic kiosk and areas for private work and study.

Importantly, users will have access to the Yarra Plenty Regional Library's extensive catalogue of books, magazines and other resources via its 'Click and Collect' service.

City of Whittlesea Chair Administrator Lydia Wilson said the project demonstrated Council's commitment to expanding library services across the municipality.

"Libraries play such an important role in our communities, providing residents with convenient access to a vast array of resources," she said.

"We are always looking at new ways of providing library services to residents in our new and developing communities that complement their lifestyles. That's why earlier this year, we opened the Mernda Library in a shopfront at the Mernda Town Centre, and the library hub at Kirrip Community Centre."

"Libraries are social hubs and welcoming spaces where people can connect through activities and programs."

– Chair Administrator Lydia Wilson

The library service, which will be provided by Yarra Plenty Regional Library on behalf of Council, will be offered alongside existing services at the Community Centre on De Rossi Boulevard, including kindergarten programs and Maternal and Child Health Services.

For more information go to whittlesea.vic.gov.au/KCCLH

BELOW Parinaaz, 3 (on the left) and Sabrina, 5, are looking forward to the library opening.

ABOVE
Back: Thomas, 12, Ruby, 14, and club liaison officer Emil Atanasov. Front: Ashraf, 5.

New pavilion rounds out upgrades

For the first time in Lalor United Sloga Football Club's rich 45-year history it has a dedicated social space to complement its on-field activities.

The redevelopment of the pavilion at HR Uren Recreation Reserve in Thomastown, which will be used by both the host club and wider community, was completed in July.

The pavilion includes a social space, kitchen, office, internal and external storage and amenities, as well as a spectator viewing area. The upgrade also included an extension to the car park, which means people attending training or match days will no longer have to park in the surrounding streets.

Rounding out the suite of improvements was the installation of a new ball catching fence to protect the pavilion, new concrete paths and landscaping. This stage of the redevelopment follows construction of a new FIFA-approved synthetic soccer pitch, paths and fencing around the pitch and bench seating between pitches in 2022.

Lalor United Sloga Football Club Liaison Officer Emil Atanasov said there were a lot of happy people now the pavilion was finished.

"Previously our social space was in the changerooms but now we've got a purpose-built facility where people can sit, have a meal and stay warm," he said. "We have everything we need now so we're very happy. We'll only get better as a club from here."

ABOVE Residents can drop off their green waste for free using digital vouchers.

Waste and recycling vouchers now digital

Waste and recycling vouchers are now easy to access anytime on your smartphone or digital device.

Waste and recycling vouchers assist all residents including renters to easily dispose of their waste, helping to reduce the amount of illegal dumping of rubbish around our community.

The vouchers are easily downloaded via our website. Once you login to the customer portal on our website you can access your digital vouchers to use at participating locations.

There's no need to worry about losing your voucher, it's safe and secure on your device.

We're here to help you through the transition to digital waste and recycling vouchers. If you need any assistance, call us on 9217 2170.

To learn more scan the QR code or visit **whittlesea.vic.gov.au/wastevouchers**

What vouchers are available?

Each household has access to:

General waste
1 voucher

Use this discount voucher to drop off general waste at the Hanson Landfill in Wollert for $30.

Green waste
4 vouchers

Use these vouchers to drop off your green waste for free at the Repurpose It facility in Epping.

Timber waste
4 vouchers

Use these vouchers to drop off timber offcuts and timber waste for free at EcoDynamics in Epping.

Brick and rubble
2 vouchers

Use these vouchers to drop off brick and rubble waste such as asphalt, rock and concrete for free at the Repurpose It facility in Epping.

For facility locations and load limits, visit
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/wastevouchers

Your guide to waste and recycling

Discover where to properly dispose of your items.

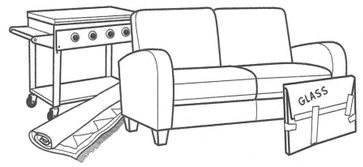
Council collections

Hard rubbish collection

Each household, whether you are a homeowner or renter, can book two FREE collections per financial year.

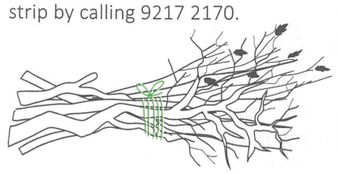
Accepted items include blankets, boxes of odds and ends, broken toys and rags, curtains that cannot be reused, furniture (with doors secured), mattresses and bed bases, small amounts of timber offcuts and wrapped glass.

To book visit
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/hardwaste



Bundled branch collection

Book unlimited FREE collection of small bundles of branches from your nature strip by calling 9217 2170.



Drop off

Batteries

To find your nearest FREE drop off point visit **bcycle.com.au**

Cardboard

Take to Hanson Wollert Landfill for FREE recycling.

E-waste
(anything with a cord or battery)

E-waste can't go in your bin or hard rubbish collection. Drop off for FREE at:

- Hanson Wollert Landfill
- SRS Metals, Thomastown

Or visit one of Council's e-waste collections. Visit **whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events**

Soft plastics

Take clean and dry soft plastics to Council's dedicated recycling bins at Hanson's Wollert Landfill for FREE.

Medicine blister packs

Recycling empty medicine blister packets for FREE using the designated recycling box at one of our recycling stations (locations below) or drop them off at a participating Chemist Warehouse.

Toys, old or broken

Drop off for FREE at Big W stores. To find out more visit
bigw.com.au/toys-for-joy

Whitegoods

Drop off large household appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, dish washers, microwaves for FREE at:

- Hanson Wollert Landfill
- SRS Metals, Thomastown

Other household items

Drop off for FREE at one of Council's recycling stations (see below for locations):

- X-rays
- Printer cartridges
- Mobile phones and accessories
- Cameras and accessories
- DVDs and CDs
- VHS and audio tapes
- Fluorescent light globes and tubes
- Small e-waste items like iPods and MP3 players.

Council recycling stations

Civic Centre
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

Epping Depot
68–96 Houston Street, Epping

Galada Community Centre
10a Forum Way, Epping

Jindi Family Community Centre
48 Breadalbane Avenue, Mernda

Lalor Library
2A May Road, Lalor

Laurimar Activity Centre
110 Hazel Glen Drive, Doreen

Mernda Village Community Centre
70 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda

Mill Park Library
394 Plenty Road, Mill Park

Riverside Community Centre
8 Doreen Rogen Way, South Morang

Shared Cup Cafe
Donnybrook Road, Donnybrook

Thomastown Library
52 Main St, Thomastown

Whittlesea Library
57–61 Laurel Street, Whittlesea

Privately owned facilities

EcoDynamics
480 Cooper St, Epping
ecodynamics.com.au

Repurpose It
480 Cooper St, Epping
repurposeit.com.au

SRS Metals
304-308 Mahoneys Rd, Thomastown
srsmetals.com.au

Hanson Wollert Landfill
55 Bridge Inn Road, Wollert
hansonlandfill.com.au

Still not sure about some items?

Check out our A–Z guide at
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/a-zwaste

ABOVE The Lalor and District Men's Shed received a grant through Council's Community Grants Program.

Barbecue boost for local group

The Lalor and District Men's Shed can fire up the barbecue, thanks to a Community Grant they received recently.

The Lalor and District Men's Shed recently received a community grant to support them to build a mobile barbecue trailer that they will use to raise funds for their group.

Committee member Merv Landy said the group was grateful for the grant.

"It means we will have all our barbecue equipment in the one place and we can just hook up the trailer and go," he said.

"We were very pleased to receive a grant to allow us to build a barbecue trailer. The trailer will mean we can take to different places and events to help us raise money for our overheads."

– Merv, Lalor and District Men's shed

The City of Whittlesea has allocated more than $825,000 through its Community Grants Program since it was introduced in August 2023.

To find out more or to apply for a grant, visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/grants

MEET

Our newest Youth Councillor

Elly Watson joined the City of Whittlesea Youth Council in July and is excited to be one of the 13 young people who will be providing advice to Council on matters that affect young people.

ELLY WATSON

AGE 16 (she/her)

My passion for wellbeing and physical fitness, coupled with a desire for different encounters, propelled me to take this endeavour.

I aspire to enable participation in council-hosted events and activities, deepen engagement with the youth offerings in the City, foster community interaction, and actively contribute to the Council's decision-making processes.

Learn more at
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/youthcouncil

Young at Heart going for gold at Games

Get ready to go for gold this November and December as we host the City of Whittlesea Seniors Festival with an exciting theme of 'Young at Heart Games'.

The fun will begin with a community torch walk, inspired by the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games on Tuesday 12 November, at the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre.

The Senior's Festival recognises and celebrates the contributions of seniors in our community. The Young at Heart Games has an exciting line-up of activities suitable for all abilities. It's not just about getting active with friendly competition, it's a chance for you to meet new friends and connect with people in the community.

There is something for everyone, including tennis, walking football, 10-pin bowling, carpet bowls, golf, pickleball and more. These events, which are spread across various locations within the City of Whittlesea, are designed to be accessible and welcoming for all participants.

Bob Rampling, 76-year-old Mernda resident and golf enthusiast, is excited to be participating in the torch walk and golf competition.

"The games bring people from all walks of life together, and it's great to see everyone enjoying themselves. They provide an opportunity to try out new and different things."

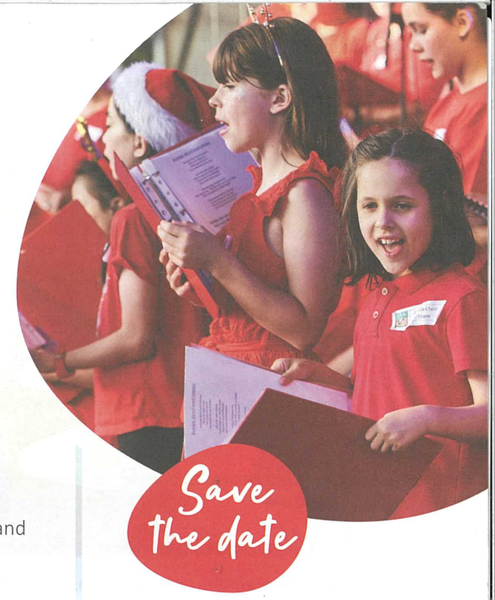
– Bob, Mernda

"It's always good fun, good exercise, and a chance to get out in the fresh air, talking and mixing with like-minded people," he said.

The City of Whittlesea is proud to support the Seniors Festival, a statewide initiative, of the Victorian Government.

For event details and to register, visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival or contact the Ageing Well department at 9217 2170, option 4.

ABOVE Bob Rampling from Mernda is excited to be participating in the Young at Heart Games.



Save the date

The Community Choir will perform at City of Whittlesea's Carols by Candlelight on Friday 13 December.

Singers be merry and bright

End 2024 on a high note by joining our vibrant Carols Community Choir.

The City of Whittlesea's Carols Community Choir is all about spreading holiday cheer and having fun. Whether you love to sing in the shower or you are a professional, we want you!

Our choir welcomes carollers of all levels.

"As a first-time member, Jiya felt so welcomed. The team were awesome at helping her overcome her fear of performing solo. We had such a great time."

- choir member Jiya's mum

Come join the fun and make new friends who love to sing.

Register now at
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/getinvolved

ABOVE Detail from *My Web Galaxy* by Renita, 2023 Youth Award.

Art explores *hope*

Applications are now open for the City of Whittlesea's annual art exhibition. Embrace the theme *Hope: A Spectrum of Possibility* with your artistic vision.

Use any art mediums, materials, process, practices that resonates with you. All ages, levels of experience and backgrounds welcome to apply.

The exhibition will run from Friday 17 January to Friday 7 February 2025 at the Plenty Ranges Art and Convention Centre, South Morang.

For more information and to apply visit
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/artexhibition

Applications close Monday 18 November.

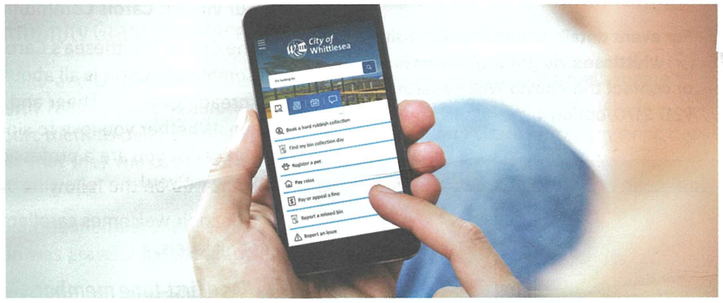
Have you applied for kinder in 2025?

Kindergarten is an important first step in your child's education. It helps build strong foundations for life.

Not only is kindergarten fun, but it also helps children develop social skills and a love of learning.

There are still spots available for 3 or 4-year-old kindergarten next year. It's free to apply and free to attend.

For information on how to apply visit
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder



New look website

The City of Whittlesea's new website is making it easier for residents and customers to find the information they are looking for with a cleaner design and improved search functionality.

A new customer portal launching soon will mean that more transactions are able to be completed online, making it more convenient for you to interact with us.

From requesting a bin, to booking a hard waste collection, reporting an issue or paying a bill, it will be quick and easy on the new customer portal.

You will be able to create an account and sign-in to view all of your requests in the one place.

To explore our new website visit
whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Bringing up Kids Expo

Thursday 12 September
10am–1pm
Thomastown Library,
52 Main Street, Thomastown

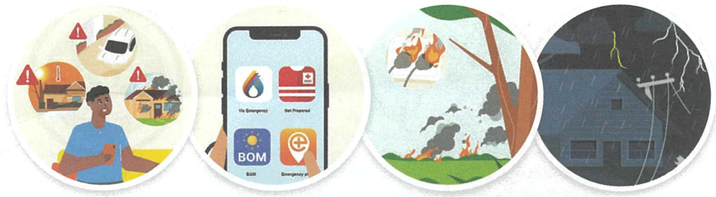
The Bringing Up Kids Expo is a one-stop shop for families, offering a wealth of information on local support services, programs, and events available for City of Whittlesea families.

Join us for this free event, which includes activities to keep your children entertained:

- face painting
- storytelling
- sensory play activities
- art and craft and much more.

Know your fire risks and be prepared

While the weather might still be cool, it's a good time to start thinking about and preparing for the upcoming summer season. In particular, understanding and preparing for fire risks is essential. Below are some handy things to keep in mind.



Emergency preparedness

- **Home emergency checklist:** Have an emergency kit with essentials like a home emergency plan, first aid kit, torch, batteries, radio, phone chargers, important documents, medications, water, food, and pet items. For a full list, visit **whittlesea.vic.gov.au/emergency**
- **Prescribed burning program:** Council with its contractors and the Wurundjeri Narrap Rangers undertake planned burns to reduce fire risk. We publish the dates and locations for planned burns on our website and social media.

Emergency contacts

- Fire, Police, Ambulance: **000**
- Flood and storm emergencies: **132 500**

Bushfire and grassfire risks

- Have a plan and know what to do if there is a fire near you.
- Grassfires can start anywhere and spread quickly. Be aware of risks near new developments and nature reserves.
- Never drive towards smoke or fire and keep roads clear for emergency services.

Stay updated

- Download the VicEmergency App.
- For fire bans and ratings visit **cfa.vic.gov.au**
- For floods and storms, visit **ses.vic.gov.au**

For more resources to help you stay safe, visit
whitttlesea.vic.gov.au/emergency

Getting ready for *summer*

It may only be spring, but it's important for pool and spa owners to stay informed about pool safety and regulations to keep everyone, especially children, safe around backyard pools and spas.

The State Government safety laws require pool and spa owners to:

- Register all private swimming pools and spas.
- Have barriers inspected and certified for compliance every four years.

Visit **whittlesea.vic.gov.au/pools** for more information or call 9217 2170.

Did you know?

Our updated Community Local Law 2024-2034 covers a range of topics and includes updated regulations about rubbish, pets, parking, fire safety, and public behaviour to help keep our community safe and support people to live harmoniously.

Learn more at
whittlesea.vic.gov.au/LocalLaw

Have you visited the Whittlesea Service Hub yet?

Located in the heart of Whittlesea, our Whittlesea Service Hub provides residents in the north a convenient place to chat to our friendly customer service staff.

In addition to being able to pay your bills (cashless payments accepted) and have your say on a range of community consultations, you can also drop by and speak to one of our specialist staff who are based at the hub on the following days:

Business Concierge
Tuesday
9.30am-4pm

Building Services
Wednesday
9.30am-4pm

Planning Services
Thursday
9.30am-4pm

The Whittlesea Service Hub is located at 63 Church Street, Whittlesea.

WHITTLESEA Show

SAT 2ND & SUN 3RD NOVEMBER 2024

ANIMAL NURSERY
ART
CATTLE
EDUCATION
FARM & GARDEN
FUN & GAMES
FOOD EXPO
HERITAGE

The Whittlesea Show returns once again with free family fun & games, live entertainment, a variety of new attractions and pavilions jam packed with animals, educational activities & displays. There are a huge range of competitions to enter in, where you'll find there is something for everyone.

HOBBY LIVESTOCK
HOMECRAFTS
HORSES
PHOTOGRAPHY
PIONEER
POULTRY
SHEEP
WOODCHOP

SEPTEMBER 2024

Local Scoop

Your City of Whittlesea *news*

City of Whittlesea

Skate and play at Whittlesea Public Gardens
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Waste and recycling vouchers now digital
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Know your fire risks and be prepared
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Growing Suburbs

A new community centre for Wollert

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